

# PROCEEDINGS

ON THE OCCASION OF LAYING

THE CORNER-STONE OF THE BUILDING

FOR ALL THE USES OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION,

MARCH 15, 1881.

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED BUILDING.



BOSTON :

PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, NO. 39 ARCH STREET.

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## Building Committee.

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CHARLES W. SLACK,	JAMES C. TUCKER,
NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE,	EZEKIEL B. STUDLEY,
JOSEPH F. PAUL,	JOSEPH W. HILL,
NATHANIEL CUMMINGS,	JOHN F. BACON,
CHARLES WHITTIER,	LEONARD F. CREESY,
PAUL D. WALLIS,	JAMES G. HAYNES,
JONAS FITCH,	HENRY A. TURNER,
FREDERIC W. LINCOLN,	LEMUEL M. HAM,
JOSEPH L. BATES,	ALONZO W. FOLSOM,
THOMAS LEAVITT,	WILLIAM CARPENTER,
GEORGE F. SHEPARD.	

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## Architect.

WILLIAM G. PRESTON.

## PROCEEDINGS.

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At a meeting of the Building Committee of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, December 23, 1880, the chairman (the President of the Association) suggested that the corner-stone be laid upon the eighty-sixth anniversary of the formation of the Association, viz., March 15, 1881. At the next subsequent meeting of the committee, December 30, on motion of Mr. CHARLES WHITTIER, it was voted that the corner-stone be laid on the 15th of March ensuing, and that the architect and stone-masons be requested to prepare the work for the purpose. It was also voted that the President be requested to deliver an address on the occasion, pertinent to the ceremony, and that invitations be extended to the Governor and Mayor, also, to address the company assembled. The President, with Messrs. NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE and GEORGE F. SHEPARD, were subsequently made a committee to take charge of the proceedings.

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## EXERCISES AT THE STONE.

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Accordingly, on the day named, — one of the most genial and welcome of the entire spring, — all preparations having been made, a large company of officers, members, honorary members and friends of the Association assembled at the lot on Huntington avenue, where a platform had been erected for the officiating parties. JOSEPH W. HILL, Esq., a member of the Board of Government, acted as Chief Marshal, with EDMUND B. VANNEVAR, WILLIAM G. WHITNEY, CHARLES O. EATON, CHARLES H. DAVIES, WILLIAM P. STONE, Jr., GEORGE F. SLADE, WILLIAM S. EATON, Jr., WILLIAM H. PEARSON, and JAMES G. HAYNES, as Assistant Marshals, under whose direction the exercises were conducted.



At two o'clock, P. M., JOSEPH F. PAUL, Esq., chairman of the sub-committee in charge of the practical work of the erection of the building, — consisting of Mr. PAUL, NATHANIEL CUMMINGS, JONAS FITCH, ALONZO W. FOLSOM, GEORGE F. SHEPARD, NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE, and CHARLES W. SLACK, — called the assembly to order, and addressed the President as follows : —

Mr. PRESIDENT : — In behalf of the sub-committee, it becomes my duty and pleasure to inform you that all the arrangements for laying the corner-stone of this building are completed, and that everything is in readiness for the performance of the ceremony. Before which, however, I will ask the Chaplain of the Day, Rev. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, to invoke the Divine blessing on the enterprise.

Rev. Mr. HALE offered the following invocation : —

Almighty God! We ask Thy blessing upon the work which we have taken in hand. Be with the children as Thou hast been with the fathers. Unless the Lord build the house, the builders labor in vain. We dedicate this hall to Thy service; we consecrate it to the better education of Thy children, — to the promotion of art and science, and faithful duty among men. Grant that it may be always sacred thus to Thine infinite purpose. We ask Thy blessing upon the society which builds it; Thy protection and care for those who work upon these walls in its service. Give wisdom and courage to its officers, and unite all its members in the Unity of Thy Holy Spirit, which is the bond of peace. In Christ Jesus we ask it. AMEN.

Mr. PAUL then asked the architect, Mr. WILLIAM G. PRESTON, to examine the work, who did so, and responded : —

Mr. PRESIDENT : — I have carefully examined and measured the position of the foundation upon which the corner-stone is to be placed. I find it is in accordance with my plans and ready for your action.

The stone, containing the box, being set, the top stone was held in the slings of the derrick, when the President, CHARLES W. SLACK, stepped forward, took a trowel from the contractors, and spread the cement over the face of the under course of stone, covering the box. The upper stone was then

lowered in its place, and pronounced well and truly laid, according to the specifications and contract.

Within the stone, furnished by Crowley & Coughlan, contractors for the freestone, was inserted a copper box, tinned within and without, fourteen inches long, eleven inches wide, and five and a quarter inches deep, from the establishment of Samuel D. Hicks & Son, containing the following : —

1. A silver plate, 12 × 8 inches, with the following inscription : —

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION,

Instituted in Boston, March 15, 1795.

Incorporated March 8, 1806.

The corner-stone of this building for the Association laid

by the President,

CHARLES W. SLACK,

In the presence of the State Government,

JOHN D. LONG, Governor ;

of the City Government,

FREDERICK O. PRINCE, Mayor ;

and the

Government and Members of the Association.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1881.

CHARLES W. SLACK, *President*.      FREDERIC W. LINCOLN, *Treasurer*.

NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE, *Vice-Pres't*.      JOSEPH L. BATES, *Secretary*.

THOMAS LEAVITT,      JAMES C. TUCKER,      EZEKIEL B. STUDLEY,

JOSEPH W. HILL,      JOHN F. BACON,      LEONARD F. CREESY,

JAMES G. HAYNES,      HENRY A. TURNER,      LEMUEL M. HAM,

ALONZO W. FOLSOM,      WILLIAM CARPENTER,      GEORGE F. SHEPARD,

*Trustees*

JOSEPH F. PAUL,      NATHANIEL CUMMINGS,      JONAS FITCH,

CHARLES WHITTIER,      PAUL D. WALLIS,

And the Board of Officers for 1881,

*Building Committee.*

WILLIAM G. PRESTON,

*Architect.*

AUGUSTUS LOTHROP,      WILLIAM M. RUMERY,

*Contractors.*

2. Annals of the Association from 1795 to 1860, inclusive, by Joseph T. Buckingham.
3. Manual of the Association, édition of 1879.
4. Official reports of the first and thirteenth exhibitions of industry, skill and art by the Association.
5. Copies and representations of the gold, silver, and bronze medals, and the diploma, awarded at the thirteenth exhibition.
6. Official reports of the proceedings of the annual meetings of 1880 and 1881, with certificate of membership.
7. Circulars and official report of the Trades' display at Boston's anniversary, Sept. 17, 1880.
8. Proof set of the national silver coins of 1881, and a half dollar of 1812.
9. Manual of the State Government, 1881.
10. Municipal Register of Boston for 1880.
11. Organization of the Boston City Government for 1881.
12. Boston Almanac for 1881.
13. Elevation and ground-floor plan of the new building.
14. Circular, card and blank of the Board of Managers of the Fourteenth Exhibition.
15. Boston *Sunday Herald* of March 13; evening newspapers of March 14, and morning newspapers of March 15, 1881.
16. Weather record from January, 1849, to February, 1881, inclusive, kept by Charles Breck, of Milton, Mass.

Mr. PAUL — The Chief Marshal will now form a procession, to proceed to the hall of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for the completion of the exercises of this occasion by addresses from the President and invited guests.

Under the guidance of the Chief Marshal and assistants, a procession was formed, and, at tap of drum, moved to the hall designated, which had kindly been placed at the disposal of the Association for the occasion by AUGUSTUS LOWELL, Esq. The body of the hall was well filled with ladies and gentlemen, and the platform with members of the building and exhibition committees, past presidents, honorary members, members of the State and City governments, and other conspicuous citizens.



## EXERCISES AT THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

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The company having been called to order at 2.30 o'clock, the Vice-President, NATHANIEL J. BRADLEE, Esq., asked the assembly to unite with the Rev. Mr. HALE in an address to the Throne of Grace.

Mr. HALE offered this prayer : —

Father of Mercies ! It is in Thy perfect love that we are here met together. Bless us, best of all, with the consciousness of Thy presence with us — the Father with his children. And be pleased to grant, not in this hour's service only, but in all that Thy servants may attempt for the improvement of this town and commonwealth, the life which comes from Thine own Holy Spirit ; the strength which those have who rest on an Almighty arm ; that we may all know how great a thing this is, that we may be workmen together with God ! AMEN.

The Vice-President then said : —

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN : — The Building Committee of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association voted to celebrate this, the anniversary of our natal day by laying the corner-stone of the new building, and inviting the President to deliver an address on the occasion. The corner-stone having now been laid, I have the pleasure of introducing to you our President, CHARLES W. SLACK.

### ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHARLES W. SLACK.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN : — Should we desire to go back so far, the origin of halls or assembly-rooms can easily be found among the Greeks. Their *agora* were square spaces, in the open air. Surrounded with buildings, originally intended for the administration of justice and the gathering of the populace, they became, in time, the localities for the sale of specific classes of goods, and, subsequently, all kinds of merchandise. The Romans followed with the *fora*, which, instead of being square, as were the Greeks, were oblong, but for the same purpose, — popular assemblies and courts of law. In time these became divided into two kinds, — one for assemblies and justice exclusively, and the other for mercantile transactions. There were, in the height of Rome's greatness, nineteen of these *fora*, of which the chief was the *Forum Romanum*, or “ the forum,” as we popularly know it in history, which

was surrounded by temples, triumphal arches, basilicæ, and other works of magnificence, with here and there within the area a statue or column in honor of distinguished personages or important events. At one end, also, was a rostrum for the orators to address the people, while smaller rostra were conveniently placed about the grounds. This renowned spot became subsequently a cattle-market, and now but a broken column or so indicates its once important character.

Among the Romans, following the suggestion of the aggregation of numbers engaged in the same interest, originated the various mechanical fraternities. Some authorities attribute all the European guilds to this source. These latter probably first attained their development in the free cities of Italy, where the trades had to protect themselves against the rapacity of the lords. By the close of the twelfth century these guilds were general throughout Europe. The Hamburg Drapers Company dates from 1153; the Magdeburg Shoemakers, from 1157. Milan had all its craftsmen thus organized in 1160. France was prolific in guilds in Louis IX.'s time (1215 to 1270). With the increase of wealth and influence that came with these organizations, elegant halls were built for their meetings and festivities. Privileges were accorded them by royal favor; and by the thirteenth century, and during the two subsequent ones, these societies of mechanics were the political counterbalance against the power of the nobles. On the continent these guilds gradually became aristocracies, especially in Germany, where their exactions had to be curtailed by statute.

In England these guilds by some are traced to the Saxon law; by others, to a purpose to avoid Norman exactions after the Conquest. This early origin may be apocryphal; but certain it is that they were in operation long before they were formally licensed. They introduced the democratic element into society, and in their progress became bulwarks of the subjects' liberty and the depositories of much political power. In London to-day there are twelve of these great companies whose existence, in unbroken continuity, covers from two to five centuries. The Goldsmiths, organized in 1327, have a splendid hall, and give famous banquets. They have the privilege of assaying and stamping all articles made of gold and silver, affixing thereto their "mark," and receiving a two and a half per cent. commission for the service. They possess a cup from which Queen Elizabeth drank at her coronation, and their hall is rich in portraits, busts, and antiquities. The Skinners (or furriers, as we should denominate them) and the Merchant Taylors were also organized in 1327. The former's hall is quite rich in portraits, together with vestments of fur; while the latter has the largest and most sumptuous of all the halls, and has had several of the kings and many of the chief nobility among its members. It is of Conserva-



tive tone in politics, and within its walls great dinners in our day have been given to Sir Robert Peel and to Lord Stanley. The Grocers, originally called the Peppcrers, began in 1345, and erected its first hall in 1427. It was in this hall that the committee of the House of Commons appointed to resist Charles I.'s attempt to seize the five members of Parliament met, in January, 1647. Here it was also that London's great dinner to the members of the Long Parliament was given. Sir Philip Sidney, the courtly soldier, belonged to this company, and his fellow-members at his funeral rode in almost regal state. The Fishmongers date from 1364; they require five hundred and twenty-five dollars for membership, which fee secures wealth and eminence. The banquets of this company are renowned for splendor, and its politics are in accord with those of the Liberal party of to-day. The Drapers, also, were organized in 1364; the Haberdashers, in 1448; the Ironmongers, in 1464; the Clothworkers, in 1482, of whom James I. was a member; the Salters, in 1530. The Mercers and the Vintners are of so great an antiquity that it is now difficult to give the exact year of their organization — the former having a "loving cup" that was given them in 1558, a hall built in 1672, and a history which includes Queen Elizabeth and Whittington, "four times Lord Mayor of London," among its members; and the latter having a hall built in 1671, and rejoicing in the possession of portraits and other objects of great historical interest. While these are the leading guilds of England's metropolis, there are others, like the Armorers (1453); Stationers (1554), receiving five shillings for each literary work registered at their hall, thereby preventing plagiarism, and which registry was begun in 1557; Apothecaries (1617); Barber-surgeons, Weavers, Saddlers, Carpenters, and Painter-stainers, many of which are also very rich, and maintain elegant halls. There are, indeed, eighty-two of these companies in London, one-half of whom only have established halls.

As will have been noted, these guilds of London do not necessarily mean a trade association. Before the day of household suffrage they had votes granted to their members, and many persons joined them to secure this privilege in city affairs; others, not tradesmen or craftsmen, from a desire to "patronize" their charitable or other beneficent works — which include schools, hospitals, asylums, and the like, besides feasts and personal aggrandizement, in their scope. In Scotland the associations of merchants are called guilds, and the magistrate next in rank to the Mayor (or "Provost") is called the "Dean of the Guild." It may be remembered that within a score of years Dickens and some of his associates attempted a guild of Literature and Art, but as yet without unqualified success. In Russia classes of business men, ranked numerically as "Guild No. 1," "Guild No. 2," and so on, enjoy different privileges,

according to the taxes levied and paid. In Prussia, from jealousy of their political influence, guilds were abolished in 1810, but reëstablished in 1840, and since continued. In France they were suppressed in 1776, but soon reëstablished, and finally permanently abolished in 1791.

It is to these guilds, more than to any other prompting, that the world owes the erection of public halls. They have been the exponents of freedom of speech, — the signs-manual of independent assemblies. It is true there existed all along, from the earliest days of modern civilization, baronial halls, galleries of armor and paintings, council chambers for royal and state deliberations, belonging to families and dynasties. But the distinctive *public* hall belongs to the history of our mother-country. Of these the most famous, still standing, is the ancient Westminster Hall, of London, which was erected in the years 1087–1100, rebuilt in 1397–99, and to-day incorporated into the Parliament Houses, — a hall that held some of the earliest Parliaments. Indeed, the first session in the new edifice was for deposing the very king by whom it had been rebuilt. This hall has known the law-courts of England since 1224. It has had hung within it the banners taken from Charles I. at Naseby; from Charles II. at Preston, Dunbar, and Worcester; and, later, those taken at Blenheim. Here Oliver Cromwell was inaugurated “Protector,” and four years later, at the top of the hall, his head was set on a pole. Here William Wallace, of Scotch valor, was condemned, and here Sir Thomas More was sent to the scaffold. Here the great Earl of Strafford was doomed to surrender his life. Here the High Court of Justice which condemned Charles I. sat, — the king having over his head the flags taken at Naseby. Here Warren Hastings, the oppressor of India, was tried, and Burke and Sheridan grew eloquent and impassioned. The last coronation dinner in this hall was George the IV.’s, in 1820, when, according to the feudal custom, and for the last time, probably, the king’s champion rode into the hall in full armor and threw down the gauntlet, challenging the world in a king’s behalf. A hall that has played such a part in human liberty, and has marked such progress in laws and institutions, cannot be uninteresting to any American.

The London “Guildhall” should be mentioned in this connection. It is the City Hall, where the inauguration and great feasts of the Lord Mayors annually take place, where the meetings, elections, etc., are held, and where the guilds, when they have occasion to use it, assemble singly or conjointly. Founded in 1411, it has known destruction almost complete in the great fire of 1666, and, being rebuilt, many great historic events, and has echoed to the eloquence of England’s foremost men. But, for modern purposes, in a city of millions of inhabitants, the Royal Albert Hall of Arts, — a tribute to the late Prince Consort, the



Queen opening it in 1871, — must take preëminence. It is an amphitheatre, capable of holding ten thousand persons, in the form of an ancient circus, and roofed over by a glass dome. Its dimensions are one hundred and sixty by two hundred feet, only twenty feet wider than the grand hall we purpose erecting.

It was with the example of such grand halls as London then furnished that our fathers essayed their assembly-places on our continent,—the nurseries of the “small democracies” that controlled our communities. The historic halls of America are few, but they are eminent. Boston holds dear its Faneuil Hall, as Philadelphia its Independence. New York has parted with its Federal Hall, in which Washington was inaugurated. What other city has another? Yet Boston had a second chosen apartment, where in these colonies the child Liberty was born, that subsequently was “rocked” in Faneuil, and attained manhood in Independence. This was the hall of the “Green Dragon Tavern,” in Union, near Hanover, street, whither resorted, in the troublous times from 1763 to 1783, the caulkers and gravers, and other patriotic mechanics, of the North End,—from the former of whom came the word “caucus,” for a confidential meeting,—and who had the favor of Otis, Warren, Adams, and Hancock, and other chiefs of the popular cause.

It was in this historic room of the young republic that the foundation of this society was laid. The first meeting was on the 4th of January, 1795, resulting, after several adjournments, in a formal organization on the 15th of March, — eighty-six years ago to-day. Trouble growing out of the apprenticeship system was the incipient cause of the movement. The boys would not abide by their indentures, and unprincipled competitors in business seduced them from their allegiance by promises of larger pay and better service. So great was the evil for the then small town that Col. Henry Purkitt (the maternal grandfather of our much respected fellow-citizen, Henry P. Kidder, the generous banker) inserted in the *Columbian Centinel* a notice for the first meeting to consult on the subject. It is a part of the traditions of the times that when Paul Revere saw this notice, much to his surprise, he hurried up town from his North-End residence to inquire of the printer who had dared to take upon himself the responsibility of calling a meeting of the mechanics of the town without first conferring with him! In truth, the gallant colonel had, from the days of the tea episode and the ride to Lexington, been recognized as the foremost man, *par excellence*, of the mechanics of Boston. Col. Purkitt did not hesitate to acknowledge his action, and to suggest that it was arranged that he (Col. Revere) should preside at the meeting which was called. This information had a soothing influence upon Col. Revere, though it was really intended Edward Tuckerman, a South-End baker, a man of great intelligence and public spirit,

should be the first President of the Association; indeed, he was nominated for the office, but he respected the generous feeling in the community towards Revere, and said he did not care to take the office of President. So Revere was chosen the first officer without opposition, and Mr. Tuckerman became Vice-President, — both serving four years, and both retiring from their positions at the same time.

It is interesting to recall the various places at which the Association met after its organization till it established a home of its own on Bedford and Chauncy streets, in 1860. These are some of them: Concert Hall, Latin School-house, Green Dragon Tavern, Marean's Hall, Old State-House, Faneuil Hall, Court-House, Association Hall, Central School-house, Exchange Coffee-House, Forster's Hotel, Marlboro' Hotel, Library Room, Julian Hall, Athenæum Hall, Tremont House, Supreme Court Room, Masonic Temple, Quincy Hall, Tremont Hall, Swedenborgian Chapel, Tremont Temple, Boott Mansion, hall of the Provident Institution for Savings, and the hall in Ballard's Building, Bromfield street, — twenty-five different places in the space of sixty-five years. Even as the Ark of the Covenant was borne by the children of Israel through all their wanderings in the wilderness, so, for more than their prescribed probationary period of forty years, were the tablets of the law of this organization borne sacredly to its later repository, soon to be once more removed to the stately building whose corner-stone we this day lay with becoming commemoration.

The desire of the Association to possess a building with committee, school, and library rooms, and a hall for general meetings, was, as our annals show, very early expressed. The first recorded movement for this object was at a meeting of the government on the 29th of December, 1798, when a committee was appointed to make inquiries respecting the purchase of a lot of land. In 1802 it was voted to offer a premium for the best approved plan for a building. Further action was delayed till 1825, when the purchase of the estate on the corner of Court and Tremont streets — Washington's quarters when visiting Boston — was contemplated. The years 1826, 1827, and 1837, renewed the further discussion of the matter, without action. In 1843 the government, with twelve members from the Association at large, were made a committee authorized to purchase such a lot of land as should be suitable for the contemplated purpose. In January, 1845, this committee reported the purchase of the Boott estate, on Bowdoin square, but with so complete an absorption of the funds that appeals had to be made to the public for means to put up the building. These were so slowly assured, — mingled with the inevitable doubts as to success, centrality of location, etc., which belong to the members of this Association, — that the scheme for a hall was temporarily abandoned, and the mansion was converted into a hotel, known as the



Revere House, after our first President, which, with Paran Stevens as its landlord, became a source of large revenue to the Association. With this prosperity the project for a home for the organization was renewed in 1856, when the estate at the corner of Bedford and Chauncy streets, the garden of the late Judge Charles Jackson, was purchased at auction, in December, 1856. A building being determined upon, Hammatt Billings was chosen as architect, and the corner-stone laid by my predecessor in this office, Hon. Joseph M. Wightman, on the 30th of September, 1857, with appropriate ceremonies. Skilful and honorable hands — those of Standish & Woodbury as masons, and Daniel Davies as carpenter — constructed the tasteful building, and it was formally dedicated on the 27th of March, 1860, with suitable exercises; generous friends in both the mercantile and mechanical interests sending in, to honor the event, valuable testimonials in the form of pictures and furniture.

The completion of this hall for the uses of the Association, so long contemplated and so long delayed, was a cause of sincere gratification. We had at last a house of our own. We were not compelled to wander from place to place to find a hall convenient for its meetings. Thither we brought our household gods, — our records, library, apparatus, and the portraits of those honored men, the past Presidents. We were in the midst of an intelligent and refined neighborhood, with family mansions, occupied by staid and influential citizens, all about us. On either hand rose the Christian church, and beneficent school-houses, public and private, were near enough for us to catch the voices of cheerful pupils. Our building was chaste in design and modest, yet an ornament to the city. We were content, — so content that nine years later we purchased additional land, on the extension of Avon place to Chauncy street, to make an important addition to our estate.

With the impetus given to the business of the city by the late war, but more particularly by the great fire of 1872, which required new localities for traffic while the burnt district was being reconstructed, the board of government, in December, 1873, was once again forced to consider the problem of suitable and central apartments. It was then voted that a committee inquire as to the expediency of disposing of that hall, and the erection of another building, better adapted for the uses of the society. A report in favor of this action led to the appointment of a committee of thirteen, to select a lot of land, who gave a year to looking at sites without concluding any bargains, — the Association in the mean time authorizing the disposal of its building by the government. The twelfth exhibition, the last in Faneuil and Quincy Halls, in 1874, immediately after, imperatively demonstrated that if the Association was to hold its

position in regard to these triennial displays, it must make haste in securing proper accommodations.

The high price at which all land was held in the city at that time made it impracticable for the committee, with the means possessed by the Association, to buy a tract of suitable size for its contemplated purpose. Meanwhile, as the time for the thirteenth exhibition, in 1877, approached, your officers sought to obtain the parade-ground of the Common for a temporary building; but, the City Council declining this aid, the exhibition was postponed till 1878, when the city kindly allowed the use of a vacant lot on Park square and Columbus avenue for the purpose. Though affording, with neighboring estates, more superficial space than ever before, this accommodation was wholly inadequate for the display of the goods offered. It now became apparent to all minds that a bold and comprehensive movement must be made for suitable accommodations; and to this end, early in 1879, the President advised the appointment of a new committee to secure a lot and erect a building that should answer all the needs of the Association. The suggestion was adopted, and, after various negotiations, with those delays incident to all large enterprises (and, in this case, with embarrassments not wholly disconnected from personal feeling), we have secured what seems an adequate area, and have begun upon it the extensive edifice whose façade and ground-plan are now familiar to all, we trust, from the many representations placed before the public.

I may be pardoned for a digression, in this connection, to show how intimately this venerable organization has been connected with public buildings and events in this city. In January, 1800, five years after its institution, by invitation of the selectmen of the town, it organized a procession of the trades, forty-five in number, in honor of the memory of George Washington, then just deceased. The next month it participated in the national mourning, recommended by President Adams, in testimony to the same great man. In 1825 it gave a banquet to Gen. Lafayette, which was partaken of in great state at Marlboro' Hotel, with attendance from national, State, military, and naval dignitaries. In 1818 it assisted in laying the corner-stone of the Massachusetts General Hospital; in 1827 it laid the corner-stone of the Franklin obelisk in the Granary burial-ground; and in 1828 that of the Tremont House. In 1833 it undertook the completion of the Bunker-Hill monument, work on which had been suspended since 1828, and it saw it finished in 1843, for which service our successive Presidents are the first Vice-Presidents, *ex officiis*, of the Bunker-Hill Monument Association. In 1854 it took the initiative for the statue of Benjamin Franklin, which was inaugurated in 1856, with a brilliant trades' procession organized by itself. It also organized the trades' display in 1875 at the centennial



anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill; and again, in 1880, in honor of the quarter-millennial of the city of Boston. It rendered official and especial honor to such men as James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, John Davis, and Abbott Lawrence. It offered the first premiums for the handiwork of apprentices in 1818, 1819, 1820, and 1821; and in 1837 gave the first extended exhibition of industry, skill and art in Boston, in Faneuil and Quincy Halls, which was repeated at intervals in the same halls till the twelfth exhibition, in 1874. The thirteenth, on a much larger scale, was given in a building purposely constructed for it on Park square, as before mentioned; to be succeeded, this fall, by the fourteenth, in this new and permanent building, in whose honor we meet to-day.

Besides these services, the Association has ever been generous towards enterprises for internal improvement. In 1829, long before railroads were understood and hardly adopted in either hemisphere, William Jackson, one of our members, delivered a lecture to members and others, powerfully advocating the railway system as we know it to-day. Such was its effect that he was invited to repeat it to the Legislature, and other influential persons. This he did, and it had much to do with the formation of the course of proceeding in regard to these great works of inter-State communication in our country. Again, in 1855, under the auspices of this Association, Mr. Latta, of Cincinnati, was invited to deliver a lecture on the application of steam to machinery, which he accepted, illustrating his theme by the steam fire-engine, which led to the introduction of the Miles Greenwood engine of that year, soon to be superseded by the more efficient, portable and tasteful engines from the Hunneman and Amoskeag shops, and which has revolutionized our whole system of fire suppression.

In all these demonstrations (of which this is but a partial list of the occasions showing the public interest of this Association) our community has borne witness that the membership was made up of thrifty, generous, and broad-minded men. The times have greatly changed, it is true, since the society was formed, and instead of there being but a small minority of the master-mechanics who achieve a competency, as was the case not more than a generation ago, we can now rightfully claim that the reverse is the fact. With the enlarged operations necessitated by the great increase in population and the vast extension of the industrial and transportation systems, our associates, in common with the mercantile and commercial interests, have added greatly to their financial and social independence.

The stranger, who visits our "burnt district," or "Back Bay" area, — having had experience abroad, — looks upon our substantial warehouses

and our comfortable private residences with admiration. He sees, in the tasteful ornamentation of the one, a reminder of Parisian elegance; while, as he gazes on the strength of the other, he recalls the solidity of London or St. Petersburg. If he visits our foundries and machine-shops, or the apartments of more delicate and intricate manipulation, he acknowledges the prevalence of intelligence and aptitude in all the varied pursuits of the craftsman and artisan. It is this completeness and assiduity, this taste and skill, which garner the wealth that so animates the toiler. A share in the beauty of home and public edifice, in the firm-built store and convenient shop, in the improved appliances of labor, belongs rightfully to the master-workman, encouraged by such associations as this, and rewarded by the favor of a prosperous community. Reviewing the developments of the last thirty years, and sharing the revived industry of to-day in all departments, it may be asked anew, in the fervent language of all preceding speakers: What have not mechanics done for the race? Have they not chained fire and water to their crank, that at their bidding they shall accomplish their task? Have they not opened the chambers of the deep and extracted its treasures? Have they not made the raging billows their highway, on which they ride as on a tamed steed? They swing through the air in chariots swifter in course and more gorgeous in design than the fabled carpet of Persian story. Balls of fire light their apartments at night, and a summer atmosphere is imprisoned through all the hours of the dreariest winter. The lightning is their servant, and with it they send unerringly their messages fleetier than the wind. Electricity vies with steam in compassing the globe; and all the lesser powers are their ministers of helpfulness. To the wise they are the floodgates of knowledge. Kings and princes are decorated with their handiwork; but for the common people they multiply eyes and arms, and increase thereby their store a thousand-fold. They are God's noblemen, for he who made the universe was the first great mechanic, and taught all mankind the dignity of labor.

To honor such elevating tasks we build these spacious apartments, whose walls are rising before us to-day. We give to the capital of our venerated State its need, often expressed, of a spacious and ornate hall,—a credit to the Association that rears it, and a pride to the community that may know it. Enter within it, in the long future, the graces of Music and Oratory! Uprear within its protection thy triumphs, Invention and Skill! Gather in its shade ingenuous youth and emulous men, rejoicing in the victories of Mind! Here may Virtue sit, and Concord reign! Let traffic and speculation witness how substantial are the Arts—how abiding the Peace that follows helpful Service! We bid it minister to the elevation, the happiness, of the people! We devote it to all just



and succoring causes, — to Charity, to Humanity, and to Religion! We dedicate it to Practical Science, to the refinements of Culture, to Knowledge and Mechanical Craft! Ever may its broad areas be

“Rich in model and design,  
Harvest-tool and husbandry,  
Loom and wheel and engin’ry,  
Secrets of the sullen mine,  
Steel and gold, and corn and wine,  
Fabrics rough or fairy fine,  
Sunny tokens of the line,  
Polar marvels, and a feast  
Of wonder out of west and east,  
And shapes and hues of art divine, —  
All of beauty, all of use,  
That one fair planet can produce” —

and in its useful, ennobling influence prove a perpetual blessing to the community within which it is reared!

Vice-President BRADLEE then said: —

We have with us to-day one who takes a deep interest in all objects which tend to elevate and instruct the people of this Commonwealth, and is ever ready to give his words of advice and encouragement to all great enterprises, and one whom I know you will be gratified to hear on this occasion. It therefore gives me pleasure to introduce to you his Excellency Governor LONG.

#### ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN D. LONG.

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION:—I bring with pleasure to this occasion the good wishes of the Commonwealth. Your society bears her name. It was incorporated by her enactment. It is but a little younger than herself. Among its members and orators it numbers many of her magistrates and chosen ones. I cannot help referring to one of them, whose name I bear and of whose kin I am,—Gov. John Davis; as also to Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, triple promoter of agriculture, commerce, and mechanics, who is fortunately spared to grace this platform with his venerable and noble presence. Not only does your society bear the name of the Commonwealth, but it associates with her name those other titles which mark the culmi-

nation of modern civilization, and suggest the crowning glories of her own progress, the dignity and beneficence of mechanical skill and labor, the blessedness of charity, the equality, the helpfulness, the magnificent power of association. It is, indeed, a significant name,—the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. While not alone, indeed, of your society, yet of it with rare fitness it may be said that its history and its work are typical of the history and the work of the Commonwealth herself. Like all her interests it has grown beyond its own limits and lifted every other department of industry and education along with itself. Like her it has grown in purse, in power, in scope. Like her it has, in the very unfolding of its own good purposes, risen above considerations of profit, of benefit to an exclusive class, of protection to limited interests, and has aimed at the welfare of a State, at the diffusion of that practical scientific knowledge and mechanical appliance which make the home of a whole people happier and brighter, and especially at the development of manhood and character throughout all the ranks of industrial labor.

I know no words that fitly speak the debt which Massachusetts owes to the voluntary contributions and efforts of her children in these numberless lines of good works,—of charity, religion, enterprise, and of associated capital, and skill, and labor, and sentiment even, which, more than her magistrates, her laws and her police, constitute the government of her people, and are her security and impulse. Touch such a society anywhere in its ordinary work and meetings, or at its splendid exhibitions, and, lo! it is only the Massachusetts idea,—the school, the church, the militia, the town-meeting; education, the higher life, the weak protected by the strong, —equal rights!

Even such, to-day, in laying the corner-stone of your new and magnificent exposition building, are still the breadth and generosity of your outlook. How marvellous it is! Was it a dream, or some fairy tale, — the solid land rising from the sea, and graceful towers and palaces of gold and precious stones taking shape and shining afar, brilliant as the gorgeous hangings of the sun at close of day, and, alas! vanishing as quickly? But no dream or fairy tale is this. After years of homely, honest toil and saving, the sea has indeed been filled up, and where the tide once ebbed and flowed is now the solid land, bearing on its ample back the homes, the shops, the school-houses, the churches, of a great city. To these you add your own splendid and spacious temple. If it were for you, if it were for your Association, even if it were for the great industries you represent, and for these alone, it were hardly worth while that you should honor the laying of its foundations. But it is for the Commonwealth, which means for all the world, for the bettering of all human conditions, for the enlargement of all human enjoyment



and knowledge. Eloquence will lend a silver echo, and music its sweeter tones, to its walls. Art will hang them with pictures. Great engines will lift their giant arms to its roof in mute and absolute obedience to man's mastery of force, and so teach the might and immortality of mind. Great themes of state will gather within its doors the concourse of the people. Schools of design will adorn it with their tracings and figures. Its exhibitions will illustrate the limitless ingenuity of human skill, and the limitless invention of human thought. It will teach, it will refine, it will inspire, it will associate, it will tie closer the common bonds of human sympathy, dependence, and progress. And year by year its record will show that through the development of industrial mechanics based on associated action and directed in the spirit of the largest charity, all men alike, whatever their fortune or circumstances, are getting more and more of the good things of this world; alike the finer and more comfortable raiment, alike the better food, alike the newspaper and the book, alike the luscious fruits of foreign zones, alike the blessedness of light by night and heat by day, alike the opportunity and power to grow, alike the alleviations and labor-saving helps of science, — alike, for all, the comforts and betterments of a larger and nobler life!

So may it be till civilization shall reach that degree of perfection at which, with every hand and brain usefully employed, with the spirit of mutual helpfulness everywhere abroad, and with all forces combined for the common good, the whole Commonwealth shall be only one great Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. Erect your building in that spirit, and dedicate it to the Infinite Mind, from whom cometh that inspiration that makes man thus master of his necessities by making him the master of the world, and you will have set up in this city, amid these sacred spires that mark the houses of God, yet another temple to his praise, grander in its simplicity of usefulness than Greek or Gothic! And upon its altars shall be offered up to him, not the smoking sacrifice of the blood of bullock or goat, but the intelligent industries, the touching suggestions of home, the beneficent helps, the myriad evidences of the unbounded progress and charity, of his children!

Vice-President BRADLEE next remarked : —

Having now heard from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, let us turn our attention to the City of Boston, wherein our great building is being erected, — a city which has done all in its power to aid us in all our undertakings, and is represented here to-day by its City Council. I have the pleasure of introducing to you His Honor Mayor Prince.

## ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR FREDERICK O. PRINCE.

MR. VICE-PRESIDENT: — This occasion is not only an interesting event in the history of this ancient and venerable Association, but in that of the City of Boston. Organized at the close of the last century, it is one of the oldest and one of the most important of the many institutions which have contributed to the prosperity of our beloved city, through the development of its material interests. The mechanics have done as much — if they have not done more — than any other portion of the citizens in making Boston what she is to-day. Her history cannot be written without recalling many of the honored names of this Association who have been conspicuous for intelligence, industry, integrity, and enterprise, and the record shows how often their fellow-citizens have called them to high places of official responsibility and trust.

Nor have these qualities alone distinguished the mechanics of Boston. When it became necessary for the preservation of our political rights to declare the independence of the colonies, Boston, which led the van in the great cause, looked to the mechanics in its hour of danger. This draft upon their patriotism was always fully honored. Before the days of Lexington and Concord they formed here an Association to watch the movements of the enemy, and give the alarm when danger approached. Conspicuous among these patriotic mechanics was Paul Revere, who presided over the first meeting called to consider the propriety of organizing this institution, and subsequently became its first President. His honored name stands at the head of your long roll of members, and is regarded with pride, not only by the Association, but by all our citizens. I do not doubt, although I have no direct evidence of the fact, that the patriotic organization of the mechanics of 1775 was the germ of the Association of 1795; so that it may be claimed that patriotism first called together those who subsequently united, as your charter states, to create and sustain a friendly feeling among the associates; to extend the circle of individual usefulness; to encourage industry, and promote inventions and improvements in the mechanic arts; to provide for the instruction of apprentices, and assist young mechanics with loans of money, and help the aged and unfortunate of the associates, and the widows of deceased members, in poverty and suffering.

This institution can rightfully claim that it has successfully performed, and is successfully performing, the objects for which it was established. The records show that the word "charitable" was properly assumed as a part of its corporate name; for, during its existence, it has annually administered relief, in its quiet, but beneficent way, to a large number of distressed families of deceased members; but while it has been doing this Christian work it has not neglected the important



duty which it has assumed, — to elevate the mechanic interest to its just position in society, to instruct and enlighten this portion of the community through the library, the lecture, and other educational means, to encourage the application of science to the industrial arts, and stimulate those useful inventions which have lightened labor and increased production, — thus augmenting the wealth, and promoting the convenience and happiness of the people.

It has been well said that he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before is a benefactor. The producer in any industry is the friend of society and man. Nature, in denying to New England fertility of soil, compels us to be a manufacturing and mechanical community. We cannot be successful in our vocations unless we are active, intelligent, and skilful; for competition, aided by cheap labor, presses us sharply. We need, therefore, the help of associations like this to foster mechanical skill and develop artistic ingenuity. We have the brain and capacity; we only need the training and instruction. These assured, we should have no fear of the future of New England; for knowledge is especially power in the industrial arts. I congratulate the Association that it is to be established in the spacious and beautiful structure whose corner-stone has this day been laid. I trust it will be as prosperous and useful in the future as it has been in the past; that no hostile or disturbing cause may interrupt the harmony or lessen the good-will which should exist among the members, so as to secure the coöperation requisite for the best accomplishment of the design of the founders. The members were wont, in former times, to wear on public occasions a badge and carry a banner of *green*. Permit me to express the hope that this color may symbolize the vitality of the institution as long as Boston shall endure!

Vice-President BRADLEE, at the close of Mayor Prince's address, thanked the audience for its cordial coöperation in the services of the day, trusting the next time they met together it would be under the roof of the new building. He then announced the meeting adjourned until Thursday, September 1, at 12 o'clock, noon, when the fourteenth exhibition, in the new building, would be opened.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

## THE LOT.

The lot which has been selected is on an avenue (Huntington) one hundred feet wide, with a bounding street (West Newton) to the south-west, of fifty feet, opening into another (Gloucester), running northerly to Charles River, of sixty feet. It is almost in the apex of the triangle formed by the crossing of the Boston and Albany and Boston and Providence Railroads, with fine opportunities by both railroads, — one at Huntington avenue, and the other at West Newton street, — to establish stations for the accommodation of the thousands who will want to visit the building. It will have horse-car tracks in front of it, connecting with both the Metropolitan and Highland railway systems, so that passengers from all sections can be accommodated. It is but slightly distant from the Art Museum, the new Art Club building, the State's Normal Art School site, the new Public Library building, the Institute of Technology, and the other edifices that so thickly mark already the converging of the avenue into Boylston street. The site consists of one hundred and ten thousand square feet, or about two acres and a half, giving room for an edifice having about seven acres of floor space for exhibition purposes, and probably fully answering the needs of the Association in this direction for many years to come.

## THE GROUP OF BUILDINGS.

Three great buildings, forming one group, but separated by brick walls and fire-proof doors, constitute the premises. The whole has a frontage of five hundred and ninety-eight feet on Huntington avenue, and of about three hundred and seventeen on West Newton and Gloucester streets. These



two sides are those of a right-angled triangle, the hypotenuse being the northerly side, bordering upon the Boston and Albany Railroad yards, a fifteen-foot passage-way being reserved for light and air. The building will be of red brick, laid in dark mortar, with slated roofs and lanterns, and dormers of iron. The walls are to be built vaulted, and very thick, nowhere less than two feet, and from that thickness to four and five feet, thus giving great depth of window opening and projection of piers. The style of the building will be "Renaissance" in character, freely treated to accommodate itself to a building of plain and moulded brick and terra-cotta. Fine detail has been avoided, but the desired effect and variety will be obtained by large and marked features of construction at various points.

#### I. — THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Exteriorly, the Huntington avenue front evinces by the disposition of the masses of building the three interior divisions above alluded to. The first of these three divisions is the "Administration Building," at the easterly end, nearest to Dartmouth street, which contains the grand entrance and staircase halls, in an octagonal tower, about thirty-eight feet diameter, entirely of masonry, and devoted to that purpose. This tower is about ninety feet high, and has in its upper story a "belvedere," or look-out, from which a fine view will be obtained. Eight arches, with *voussoirs* of terra-cotta, connect the piers of this story. This tower will form the first conspicuous feature on approaching the building from downtown. This "Administration Building" has a basement seventeen feet high, and three stories above it. The first is devoted to committee-rooms, secretary's office, ticket-office, ladies' waiting and dressing rooms, janitor's room, general toilet-rooms, with ample facilities for checking cloaks, parcels, canes, etc.; a district-telegraph office, etc. The second story contains the restaurant, having an area of about three

thousand square feet, one-third larger than that of the last exhibition building; serving-room, ladies' toilet, etc.

The third story will contain the Association Hall, about  $43 \times 85$ , somewhat larger than the present hall on Bedford street. It is intended to finish this hall handsomely for the use of the Association; also for any other purpose for which a fine, well-ventilated hall, seating some seven hundred persons, would be required in this section of the city,—for private theatricals, receptions, balls, lectures, concerts, etc. It will have an open-timbered roof, finished in hard wood, centre of ceiling of glass, a hard-wood floor, suitable for dancing upon, stage, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing-rooms, toilet-rooms, committee-rooms, etc.

A very large passenger elevator, running within brick walls, connects this floor directly with the first-story entrance. The main staircase in the brick tower is seven feet wide. Another of four and one-half feet is at the rear of the hall, and an iron staircase outside leads to the ground at the rear. The kitchen and dependencies are also located on this floor, with lantern and top ventilation. The walls will be plastered directly on the brick, with no spaces for fire to run up between. Plastering will be laid between the floors, the staircases wire-lathed and filled solid with plaster under the steps, to avert all danger of fire in that direction. There are two wide entrances into the octagonal tower, one directly from Huntington-avenue sidewalk, the other through a covered porch and steps, twelve feet wide, from the *porte cochère* or covered carriage-porch, built of brick and stone, with hard-pine open timbered and tiled roof.

## II. — THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

Passing through the octagonal hall and corridor eighteen feet in width, in which are located the turn-stiles, as at the Centennial Exhibition, the ladies' parlor, parcel-rooms and cloak-rooms being passed, the visitor enters directly the



"Exhibition Building," and at this point a fine vista will open a distance of four hundred and fifty feet to West Newton street. This exhibition hall is  $150 \times 270$  feet, and has a basement of seventeen feet in height, well lighted on both sides, and by well-openings in the floor above, and is to be used for heavy machinery and other cumbrous articles. The first story will be eighteen feet, and the second, or gallery, fifteen feet. An immense lantern or clerestory lights the central portion of this hall, and from the galleries, fifty feet in width at each end, a fine view will be afforded. This apartment alone will furnish an area (forty thousand feet) one-third larger than the whole ground floor of the Park-square building used at the last previous exhibition. Two passenger elevators will be run from basement to the second floor, as well as several broad flights of stairs.

In close connection with the elevator and staircase, on the second floor, is the Art gallery, a room  $50 \times 90$ , having a hanging height of walls of twenty-four feet, and thirty-one feet to the glass ceiling light. As a means of judging of the size of this room, it may be stated that the large gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts is about  $35 \times 55$  feet. Ample arrangements have been made for ventilating, and it is believed this will form one of the finest rooms for the exhibition of pictures in the country. Adjoining this room is another about  $45 \times 72$  feet, and nineteen feet high, with top lights, to be used, for the present, for the display of photographs. Eight studios, averaging  $22 \times 30$  feet, line the northern wall, and have both side and sky light, chimneys, ventilators, etc. After the exhibition these will be leased to artists.

The great chimney, eleven feet square, one hundred and ten feet high, is built in this section of the edifice. It is to be so constructed that the waste heat from the boilers will be used in enforcing ventilation at various points. The boiler room, arranged for four boilers, is at the base of the chimney, and



adjoining are solid granite foundations for the engines used for furnishing power for the exhibitions, and as a firm basis for the competitive trials of engines running at high speed.

The floors and roof of this section of the building, as also the roof of the grand hall, are to be of what is termed "mill construction" — *i.e.*, the floor-timbers are to be made very heavy, of hard-pine, and placed six feet apart. The flooring is to be three inches thick, instead of the usual inch boards, the whole planed and beaded so as to make a finished ceiling beneath and floor above. This is considered the safest of all floors, as there are no concealed spaces, plastered in, for the spread of fire and congregating of rats, etc.; and the same is especially true of the roofs.

In the basement is a doorway of ample width for cars to be run directly into the building from the Boston and Albany railroad, and overhead an iron crane for unloading goods. Under the basement floor, and extending down to "hard pan," will be a brick cistern,  $25 \times 35$  feet, and twenty feet deep, having a capacity of nearly one hundred thousand gallons, from which the water for the fountains, cataracts, etc., will be pumped, and from which also the general supply for toilet purposes in the building will be drawn. It will be supplied mainly from the rainfall on the two acres of roof.

### III. — THE GRAND HALL.

From the Exhibition Building, on the three stories, open twenty seven wide doorways into the "Grand Hall" section. As in the other parts of the building, a basement seventeen feet in height extends under its whole area. The entrance to the hall from Huntington avenue is beneath an arch of thirty-four feet span, supported upon pilasters, with terracotta capitals. A fine flight of granite steps, thirty-five feet in width, leads up to a large vestibule, containing ticket-offices and opening into ample corridors, twelve to fifteen feet wide,

which surround the hall on three sides. The audience-room is  $140 \times 190$  feet, beside the stage recess,  $84 \times 30$ . The Boston Music Hall is  $85 \times 132$  feet, a little more than one-third the area of the hall. All along the Huntington-avenue front is a series of reception, dressing, and committee-rooms, with ample windows overlooking the avenue. Abundant coat and checking rooms are provided near the main entrance.

The grand hall is surrounded on three sides with two galleries, — one, the lower, sloping, and to be seated; the upper, or *loggia*, will be level, and to be used mainly for exhibition and kindred purposes. The roof is spanned by five arched girders, very heavily and handsomely framed, of hard-pine, and one hundred and eighteen feet span. The roof beams will also be of hard pine, planed and finished; and the roofing plank, being also planed, will make a heavy, substantial, and very beautiful finish, unique in effect, and eminently conducive, it is anticipated, to a fine, resonant, but not reverberatory, effect when the hall is used for speaking or music. The hall is lighted by a great lantern or clerestory, with windows sixteen feet in height on all its four sides. Three iron ventilating turrets are built upon the upper roof-deck, which are eighteen feet in diameter. The exit doors from the grand hall aggregate one hundred and fifty feet in width, — nearly two feet to each hundred of the audience. It is intended to make this hall perfect in its appointments, and, after the close of the exhibition, it will be available for concerts, opera, military drills, fairs, festivals, or any purpose demanding a hall with a seating capacity of eight thousand.

Directly in the rear of the grand hall, in the basement, first and second stories, are about twenty chorus, dressing, toilet and other rooms, thirty feet square and less, for the accommodation of choruses, companies, and artists who may have occasion to appear here before the public. This department has its separate exits and entrances. In addition to this there is in the basement a hall about  $55 \times 80$ , and twenty feet high,



seating about seven hundred and fifty persons, which will be very useful for chorus rehearsals when not in use for exhibition purposes. This hall has a fine north light, with two special entrances from without, and several side rooms, and will be ventilated by the great chimney.





